HERSETH SANDLIN COMMENDS SOUTH DAKOTAN RECIPIENT OF "SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR" AWARD

Washington, DC (June 16, 2010)- U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin today commended Chad Gill of De Smet, who was recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Contractor of the Year. Rep. Herseth Sandlin attended the USDA Small Business and AbilityOne Program Award Ceremony that honored Mr. Gill.

"Small businesses are an essential component to a strong economy in South Dakota and across the country, and it's important we work to help small businesses succeed and thrive," Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "Chad is truly deserving of this award, and is a great example of the kind of entrepreneurial spirit that helps grow our economy."

Gill owns and operates Phoenix Environmental Design, Inc, which is based in De Smet, SD. He was honored by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) as its Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Contractor of the Year.

USDA conducts the annual Small Business and AbilityOne Award Program to recognize the outstanding work achieved by its contracting community and the small, small disadvantaged, women-owned, HUBZone, and service disabled veteran-owned businesses, as well as AbilityOne contractors that have provided exemplary services to the Department. USDA also recognizes and pays tribute to the USDA employees who have excelled in their work with these businesses.

Winners were selected by a group of 12 officials, mostly from USDA. In each of the above categories (woman-owned, service-disabled veteran, etc.), a group of awards was given. Each sub-agency at the USDA, such as APHIS, had the ability to give an award in each category and then one USDA-wide winner for each category was given as well.

To learn more about the USDA Small Business and AbilityOne Program, please go to http://ww
w.usda.gov/osdbu

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